

**WYE SEP RECOVERY GROUP
MEETING
13 March 2016, 2.00 pm at the Station**

PRESENT: Terry Bracks, Christine Shaw, Richard van der Merwe, Mel Kohout, Carolyn Tatchell, Matthew Jackman, Ian Angus, Sandy Forbes, Roy Moriarty, Debra Hocking, Peter Latham (*Chairperson*), Yvonne Sheppard (*Secretary*).

APOLOGIES: Andrew Hack, David Huggins

GUEST: Diane Sisley – *Community Resilience Group*

1. Community Resilience Group

Diane Sisley was invited to attend our meeting in her capacity as a member of the CRG.

The newly formed Community Resilience Group met on an informal, getting to know you, basis on Tuesday 8th March.

Discussions included :

- The need to ensure good communications.
- Possible projects
- The Group's future relationship with the WSRG and its role, including the water tanks, complimentary Nissan vehicles, art installation etc.
 - Reference should be made to the WSRG's objectives template.
 - There must be clear communication between the two groups to ensure there is no duplication.
 - The WSRG is a conduit for local issues which may not otherwise be raised.
- The first meeting to be held in Wye River on Sunday 20th March.

Our Group stressed that the community needs to have a real say in what the future will look like. Should meetings be open to the community? The CRG needs to be united on decisions and speak with one voice.

We are also concerned about the undue burden placed on Debra, Ian and Roy by their representation of both groups. They feel they can manage at the moment, although Roy can't consistently attend fortnightly meetings and will request that a deputy be accepted in his place.

We will wait until the CRG has held a meeting or two before deciding, but it was felt that the submissions from the CFA and SLSC should be driven by the CRG as they will be involved with Government and other Agency representatives. The exception being the SLSC First-Aid Room upgrade for which we are going to approach the Lorne Opportunity Shop.

Di mentioned some useful publications about bushfire recovery and community. She will email the information to Sandy for distribution to our group.

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2. Art installation project

Christine tabled responses she has received and will pursue other media avenues. Costs – artist, materials, signage etc. - will need to be established before funding applications can be made. Christine will contact Julie Collins (*Lorne Sculpture Biennale*) for help on this. Grocon, *The Spirit Foundation*, COS Small Towns Improvement Grants were suggested. The CFMEU has also expressed interest in contributing to community recovery. This was questioned thoroughly and it was decided that any bequest from them be given to *The Spirit Foundation* and earmarked for a particular project.

3. Progress

There is a perception that the WSRG has done a lot for people who have lost their homes, but not for those who have lost holiday houses. People seem to have over-estimated the amount of recovery money available, but if it were split 118 ways, there would only be a small share for everyone.

a. Permanent Resident List –

The letter to be sent to people outside the current established list has been provided to COS, from whom we have as yet received no response.

The Spirit Foundation has also forwarded a copy of the letter to the Mayor, but so far without reply.

b. Water Tank -

There has been no response to our letter to COS containing all the information for the required submission to Council for the placement of the Wye River tank in Harrington Park. The *Lions Club of Lorne* should have paid for the tanks already and they will be delivered next week. In the meantime, COS has queried whether the need has passed. We have told them we expect the need will go on for some time in the future.

There was some discussion that alternative siting in the Park might encourage a renewed submission for toilets close to residential boundaries. Consideration could be given to erecting a tank-stand at the suggested site above the Community Garden. Meanwhile, a site has already been decided for the Kennett River tank which is eagerly anticipated by the community.

c. Skips –

Peter Galvin (DELWP) has been asked to get Grocon to provide separate skips for a hard waste and hazardous waste collection on Easter Monday between 9 am and 12 noon. It was suggested they be placed beside the CFA Auxiliary shipping container in McLellan Court.

Peter Latham will also talk to Helen Vaughan (Regional Director DELWP Barwon South West Region).

d. Firewood – fallen timber is being delivered to Peter Jacobs' property in Separation Creek for storage and can be taken away by anyone free-of-charge. It needs to dry out for 12 months before being suitable for burning. A local tradie could be employed to split it, but funds would need to be sought as this is not a recovery issue.

e. Log jams - It was decided we draw up a 'work in progress' list of all our submissions – including respective Agencies, request date, current situation etc.

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4. Survey

A detailed draft report has been completed. The responses indicated some people are still upset, but others are looking to the future. Despite some inevitable criticism, the results were overwhelmingly encouraging with a number of constructive suggestions.

We need to remind people that–

- It has provided the community with a voice
- It has given us an opportunity to ascertain the community mood
- It can be used as a guide for short, medium and long term projects.

We expect the Survey will be published as perhaps a one page summary document with a link to the full results for those who are interested.

We need to use the Survey to let external stakeholders – Government, COS, DELWP etc. – know what the community is thinking.

The Group expressed their thanks to Sandy and her colleagues at *nous group* for this considerable achievement in such a short time. Terry will write a letter of appreciation.

5. Wellbeing

Following our last meeting, a group session with David Younger (EMV Clinical Psychologist) was arranged for the Brigade and was generally appreciated. However, it was agreed that the subsequent community information session with David on Saturday 12th March was arranged at too short notice – only being advised by email mid-day Thursday – and consequently no-one attended. We feel this is a very sensitive area and people, particularly men, who wish to discuss their feelings will not want to do so in large, general meetings. Smaller connected groups or one-to-one sessions are essential.

We need to identify who may need help, eg. CFA members, volunteers, residents, local workers - and their partners. There are privacy issues here and we may need to go through our organisations to get people together.

It was decided we write to DHHS with a suggested protocol and calendar for arranging such meetings locally.

Lorne Hospital is also keen to help, perhaps with self-help strategies, meditation etc.

Perhaps we could arrange for free complete medical check-ups with local (or people's own) GP's.

6. Temporary toilets

The fences are expected to be taken down in a week or two.

A suggestion was received that a number of strategically sited temporary toilets be hired for the use of owners of houses still intact, but without amenities. Issues such as permission, maintenance, public health, privacy, usage and length of time needed were discussed. The provision of chemical

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toilets for individual use might be a more suitable alternative at a retail price of around \$200. Peter will ask DELWP if they will supply some.

Local camping grounds will be approached regarding the provision of shower facilities.

For people during the rebuilding phase, Otway Coast Committee has offered discount caravan parking in Apollo Bay.

7. Distribution of funds

The Red Cross funds are expected to be received by *The Spirit Foundation* on 24th March. Red Cross has more specific criteria for individuals and *Spirit* may grant us jurisdiction for distribution. A suggestion was made that some funds could be used to purchase a range of vouchers from local businesses – say, Hotel, Store, Kennett Café, local plant nurseries. Everyone who has lost their house in the bushfire could perhaps register at a community meeting for a voucher of their choice. It was felt that whilst the intent is good, the process would need to be thought through.

Carolyn has written thank you letters to business and other donors who have supported the community since the Christmas Day bushfire.

8. Matters from previous minutes

- a. The amount of the payment to resident home owners unable to access their intact homes was increased to \$2000 as recommended by *The Spirit Foundation*. Payments have been made and distributed.
- b. The WSRG has approved the next instalment payment from the proceeds of the *Wye Sep Bands Together* concert.
- c. Peter tabled his letter to Anthony Alfrenko thanking the Otway Coast Committee for paying Shane ('Slug') McCarthy's wages during the emergency.

9. Next meeting will be held at 11 am on Saturday 9th April at the Station.

Yvonne Sheppard
Secretary